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# US grant to help fight extrajudicial killings, drug trade

By Terry Quinsido

THE UNITED STATES has provided the Philippines a \$200,000 (P20 million) funding to boost cooperation to quell drug trafficking and other extrajudicial killings. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert Del Rosario and US Ambassador Harry Thomas II signed agreements on narcotics control and law enforcement in the DFA main office yesterday afternoon stipulating the grant, which aims to enhance regulations of existing agencies and strengthen handling extrajudicial cases.

The partnership on narcotics control and law enforcement support signifies strong US support "to protect human rights and the rule of law in the Philippines," Del Rosario said in a statement.

Secretary Del Rosario lauded the signing as "a testament to the broad range of cooperation between the Philippines and the US" which could set the course in a better time, "especially as drug trafficking has also targeted and victimized many OFWs," the DFA said.

Thomas, meanwhile, reiterated American commitment to help the Philippines quell transnational crimes and uphold human rights.

"After US is committed to facing the challenges posed by transnational drug trafficking with the Philippines and continue to be the Philippines' partner in the protection of human rights and bringing perpetrators of EJO (extra-judicial killings) to justice," the DFA quoted Thomas as saying.

The funding support will assist efforts of Philippine agencies for two years, and the DFA.

The US has been among the foremost supporters of Philippine anti-drug efforts, most importantly programs to arrest drug trafficking, transnational crime, terrorism, human trafficking and human rights violations.

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<b>220<sup>th</sup></b> Red Tomato	<b>142<sup>th</sup></b> Coke with Lemonade	<b>168<sup>th</sup></b> Coke with Lemonade	<b>172<sup>th</sup></b> Coke with Lemonade
<b>102<sup>th</sup></b> Tropicana Original 500ml	<b>71<sup>th</sup></b> Star Brand Raisin 500g	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b> Coke with Lemonade 500ml	<b>43<sup>th</sup></b> Coke with Lemonade 500ml

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# PCSO chair blames GMA admin for STL anomalies

By Jaymee T. Saeed

PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) chair Marjorie Jato has blamed the previous Arroyo administration for its criticism that it is compromising the profitability of lottery through its small-scale, lottery (STL), which is allegedly being used as a bribe for the illegal gambling game.

Jato blamed the STL irregularities on the past PCSO ad-

ministration, which introduced the STL in 2009.

"The previous PCSO board was plagued STL anomaly to help residents participate for reasons of its own, the previous board regulated the operation of this experimental project and formulated a new set of STL implementing rules and regulations," Jato said in a statement.

"This midnight order was kept secret from the STL opera-

tion and even from PCSO personnel who were supposed to implement the STL," she alleged.

She said the present PCSO board has not approved a single STL application since it took over two and a half years ago. "Because of the serious anomalies the STL has posed on our ability to monitor and take legal action."

## Not delaying contracts

She said that current STL contracts between PCSO and local agent corporations will expire in 2015.

Jato denied allegations that she was delaying the introduction of the new system, game, the Lottery tag system, that will replace the STL.

"The delay is actually a licensing in progress. This may be our thoughtful check if the application complies for lottery tag system in 'one shot' (Jato) or no, if they can afford it, if they are registered with the Bureau of Land Exchange Commission," she said in a phone interview.

## New game to launch

According to Jato, there are already 250 agent corporation applications for lottery operations. Twelve tend to be STL operators in Luzon, she said.

"We will launch the new game that will replace STL, the moment we receive the full and correct of the BLC from our legal officers. It is undergoing a comprehensive review and fine-tuning," she said.

She also denied reports that the PCSO is requiring a P100,000 paid-up capital for monthly operations of the lottery outlets. "We only ask for a P50,000 pretesting fee," she said.



**AWARD FOR PCSO CHAIR** Marjorie Jato, chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, receives the "Dagang ng Lipa" award in the field of health for 2011 from the Bulacan provincial government led by Gov. Wilfredo L. Binalatan (second from left) and Vice-Gov. David Fernandez (center right), with other Marikina leaders. The awarding was held recently at the Manila office. When the Bulacan Convention Center in Manila City.

# 6 charged in rice smuggle try

By Jaymee T. Saeed

THE BUREAU of Customs yesterday charged before the Corporate Crime Division officers of an importing firm and their broker for the allegedly attempting to smuggle into the Manila Freeport Zone 20,000 bags of rice from Vietnam worth about P50 million.

Charged with violations of the Tariff and Customs Code were officers of the said ship's company, Marikina Import Export Co. They are president, Joseph Marikina, secretary, Fabian Marikina, treasurer, Joseph Marikina, and director, Marikina Import Export Co. and William Young (Singapore).

Also said were Marikina's company broker, Mary Joy Marikina.

Customs Commissioner Rolly Bano, who led the

stop of the case, said the 20,000 bags arrived by ship on June 20 and sailed to 40-400 containers, and labeled as "grain board" to avoid the import permit required from the National Food Authority.

A subsequent short-order was issued by Bano and deputy commissioners for enforcement, group director, Marikina, to allow the discovery by the operations of the mislabeling of the documents.

"This was a deliberate attempt to deceive our operations to avoid the import permit requirement from the NFA for all rice importations and to defraud the government of its appropriate revenue," Bano said.

"We will strongly pursue this case against all those involved in this attempt, if only to stop the illegal activity that is hurting our local farmers," he added.

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# News

## House OKs P2-T budget for 2013

By Leticia S. Salazar

**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES** approved the P2.98-billion budget for 2013 on second reading last night, marked by frenzied debates and the relatively quick approval of the budget of mostly uncontested agencies.

The House passed the budget through a vote of 318 to 13 on a third reading. The budget was approved before midnight, and Speaker Manuel B. Dela Cruz said the House had passed the budget in record time.

In previous deliberations, the COMRA committee said executive programs was a sticking point because lawmakers lined up

to question the wisdom of providing such assistance to the private sector.

The executive branch, however, stood up to challenge the COMRA's decision. Assistant Secretary General Soliman attacked it as the department's regular reading of updates about poverty reduction programs in legislative.

Deliberations on the House Budget Committee, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) faced its most contentious

Magnum budget for 2013 and "maybe, through present," the DBM could be in line.

The 2013 appropriations act has higher figures—P4.1 billion. For the conditional cash transfer program as well as increased health care services.

The 2013 budget also included a P2.1 billion for the Department of Health (DOH) and Economic Projects Fund (EPF).

The DOH programs are allocated for special projects of various agencies but which have not been put under their respective budgets. It would be under the DOH's own budget of the specific projects have been identified.

For instance, health for hospital equipment under the DOH would only be included in the health department after a public bidding.

## Roxas now Aquino's top man to China

News page 10

The country's relations with China, according to Roxas, are changing. He said that the Philippines is no longer a "victim" of China's policies.

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As for President Aquino's recent visit to the Philippines, he said that it was a "great success" for the Philippines.

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### DFA recommended

One of the issues in the report is the need to reform the DFA. The report recommended that the DFA be restructured to be more efficient.

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### PH kid wins \$130,000 peace prize

The Philippines has a 13-year-old boy who has won the Nobel Peace Prize. The boy is named Rolly Manabat.

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## 'Delivery boy' linked to pizza resto robberies

By Mandy Carvill

The suspect identified as **Wahid Saigoo** was arrested as **Shing Chi Yee** another robbery suspect has been identified as part of a tandem who held up the westerner, according to **Joan Au-Yang** Supt. of the FBI-Hong Kong Liaison Section.

Salve withheld the name of the pizza company, and the Red Fox chain began said he was working for providing the filling of frozen pizzas.

The NBA agent said Sogge was part of a coalition who held up the coalition as state-sponsored piracy problem in Queens City, under Robinson's "Eldredge" deal in Oregon, and in Santa Cal, Mexico.

We noted that the editor-in-chief placed an *ibidem*, when the same name was kept, in the text of the article.

## PUP funds wasted on TVs, phones . . .

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was done during the PUP Technology Festival in 2010 and 2011, which linked other PUP campuses to the main school in Ilo, Iloilo, Manila, and so on.

The PUP student report improved on just one of the CDH items.

"I don't believe in '96," he been telling too  
 higher state already because if you will look  
 toward the campus, we don't even have  
 decent culture and the North Wing building  
 has no ceremony from the old to with those  
 Western life, we could do that, we can do that.

Alonso used the \$13-million budget of the FEH, which covers the main U.S. Navy campus and its extensions, but not enough for an \$8.55B extension.

Robert Gault, PLW vice president for the most structured managerial-media division of

the task and sounds examination, explained that the purpose of videoconferencing equipment was as efficient as the tandem technique has been reported to be.

The IIS was implemented so that one team could rapid-align, while the video-conferencing system was used for the technical measurement of the IIS results and

"If there are technical problems, the management can easily call for IT assistance instead of sending an email, which you still need to type. And what if the other person didn't check the email?" Castillo said.

We said administration, now headed by president Emmanuel in Geneva, found the system useful in coordinating with other agencies.

## Two-year Ft. Boni land dispute . . .

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her new partner told the lawsuit that she and her neighbors decided to action in their old house because the replacement site was prone to flooding. "I just left because I just couldn't have a choice," she said.

Two hours after the crash, residents could be seen moving out with their bundles of clothing and other possessions, while others were carrying some building materials like wooden beams and galvanized iron sheets from their demolished houses.

The ECLs said it will lease the area from a mixed commercial and residential property to be developed by Moriguchi Corp., which has invested over \$20 billion in the

Twenty-seven percent of the proceeds from the disposition of the area will go to the Grand Forest of the Philippines, it said.

"We have been delayed by two years already, having disagreed with them one year. We expect to finish the development for Windows by September to start the development next month," Harrison said.

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Chamber of Mines  
of the Philippines

## Sec. Paje is skirting the issue: it's the last-minute IRR insertion, not EO 79

Shortly after the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMMP) issued Section 9 of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Executive Order 79 as "potentially legal" in September 18, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Ramon Paje released a media statement lambasting COMMP and calling "pressure" both the industry.

COMMP takes exception to Sec. Paje's pronouncements, and wishes to shed light on its position regarding the controversial IRR, vis-à-vis the secretary's media pronouncements.

**Factbox:** Paje claims "pressure" from the mining industry on the issue of EO 79. He maintains that he cannot go against EO 79 (implying that the industry is against EO 79).

### Fact:

- Sec. Paje is skirting the issue. COMMP is not doing this. Paje to go against EO 79, and has in fact issued a statement welcoming the EO. COMMP is against the IRR that he signed, specifically Sec. 9 with reference to expired mining agreements, which was not contained in the EO. Nor in the draft IRR during the MDCG consultation with the industry on September 7, 2012 and perhaps was inserted without the knowledge of the other members of the MDCG.
- The industry has never sought any assistance from Sec. Paje. Why should there be "pressure" from the industry?
- Sec. Paje never attended any of the stakeholder consultations of the Mining Study Group that was led by President Benigno S. C. Aquino III to draft his administration's Mining Policy (EO 79). He was also not present during the September 7 MDCG stakeholder consultations on the IRR.

**Misleading:** Sec. Paje defends the controversial Section 9 of the IRR by arguing that "one fundamental intention of EO 79 is to protect the State and the future generations (sic) from the menace of a one-sided approach to minerals resource development, considering the long 60-year terms of mining contracts."

### The Truth:

- The Mining Act of 1995 provides that "mineral agreements shall have a term not exceeding 25 years and renewable for another 25 years under the same terms and conditions without prejudice to changes mutually agreed upon."
- How long mining contracts are "one-sided", as Sec. Paje claims, when it is his DENR and MGB that drafts the contracts and mining companies are only asked to sign on the dotted line?
- The last-minute insertion to the IRR that is Section 9 is worse than the insertion in new mineral agreements. The insertion will be lifted since a new mining contract renewal law has been agreed upon. The renegotiation of mining contracts being required by the provision effectively holds a mining contract renewal hostage to be considered a mining policy that only serves as a disincentive to both local and foreign investors.
- Section 9 of the IRR is potentially legal as it effectively shortens mining contracts to a mere 25 years in violation of Section 32 of the Mining Act.
- In his statement welcoming the issuance of EO 79, COMMP praised the Mining Study group for employing the consultative process. Section 9—which was not discussed during the consultation with the industry—is a clear betrayal of that process.
- If Sec. Paje is really for the protection of the State and future generations, why is there still a proliferation of legal small-scale mining and illegal logging under his watch? Why have gold purchases by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas plummeted by 90%—caused by smuggling by illegal small-scale miners—under his watch?

**Factbox:** Sec. Paje contends that government gets only 3% share in mining revenues, which is disadvantageous to government.

### Fact:

- Sec. Paje exhibits a basic non-understanding of taxation in the mining industry and the reasons behind the regulations on new mining permits, as prescribed by EO 79.
- The FTA mining permit provides for a minimum 50% government share of net mining revenues. No less than the IMF, in their study on Philippine mining taxation, made the statement that "the current FTA regime is not competitive internationally."
- The MDSA mining permit, while not providing for a minimum government share, results in an effective government share of between 40% to over 50%, depending on the level of metal prices.
- The actual fiscal contribution of a mining company, which equates to the government share, is not just the 3% income tax, but all other taxes and fees paid by the contractor as well, including income tax, numerous other taxes and fees plus a 5% royalty to government for those operating in mineral reservations and a 1% royalty to indigenous Peoples for those operating in Ancestral Domains.
- The insertion or new mining rules under EO 79 rules previously conflicts address the issue of taxation. Any increase in the royalties by an amendment of the National Internal Revenue Code will apply to existing mining contractors. So the IRR is therefore not necessary to address the issue of taxation.
- In addition, large-scale metallic miners have spent a total of P22.2 billion in projects under the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) and in environmental protection measures. SDMP initiatives include projects in the areas of education, livelihood promotion, infrastructure, and health and sanitation. Environmental protection measures, on the other hand, include projects in mine waste management, progressive rehabilitation, water quality control, and siltation control, among others.

**Misleading:** Sec. Paje claims that government share in mining taxes "is not even enough to pay for the environmental impacts of mining."

### The Truth:

A foolster by training, Sec. Paje apparently has not bothered to study the Mining Act of 1995 carefully and thoroughly. If he did, he would not have made a statement like this.

The fact is, apart from paying taxes, mining firms set aside funds to support programs aimed at mitigating the impact of mining activities on the environment - from pre-exploitation, to development, to operation, to decommissioning, to rehabilitation.

The Mining Act of 1995 requires mining firms to:

- implement Environmental Protection and Enhancement Plan, Environmental Work Program, Safety and Health Program, Social Development and Management Program
- implement the conditions of the Environmental Compliance Certificate
- form the Philippine Monitoring Team and set up Environmental Monitoring and Guarantee Funds
- implement the Financial Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Plan and set aside funds for financing post-mining rehabilitation
- conduct independent environmental audits

**Misleading:** Paje further defends Section 9 by saying this last-minute insertion to the IRR would enable the government to obtain a larger share through the establishment of mineral reservations.

### The Truth:

- Sec. Paje believes conversion of all mining areas to mineral reservations is the "silver bullet" that will provide government additional revenues from mining. That for billions of acres and reservations are a "sure off" solution again demonstrates his basic lack of understanding of the mining industry and the law.
- While the executive branch is empowered under the Mining Act to establish mineral reservations, the same law also suggests that such power may only be exercised "if there is a need to preserve strategic raw materials for industrial-critical or national development or certain elements for scientific, cultural or ecological value."
- Revenue generation is not, and cannot be, among the legal bases for exercising the power to declare mineral reservations.

COMMP stands by its statement that the freezing of the grant of mineral agreements, which effectively extends the moratorium on mining that began in May 2010, is specifically warrants for the industry. The moratorium has already caused an outflow of foreign direct investments from the sector in 2011, exceeding P12 billion based on figures from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

COMMP, however, reiterates its support for a measure that will give the government additional shares from mining and entwine with the government in this effort. We are carefully and deliberately studying the mining law issue, taking into consideration the high risks assumed by mining investors, the volatility of global metal prices, and the competitiveness of the Philippines vis-à-vis other mining jurisdictions worldwide.

Our members have never wavered in our support for the "Daang Matuwid" (Straight Path) vision of President Aquino. We believe, though, that only government officials who have demonstrated competence and full grasp of the law and are beyond reproach should be in part of the Daang Matuwid.

# The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Gaudin

## America's rich getting richer, and Gates, with \$66B, is richest still

NEW YORK—Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates, 50, was named the nation's richest man for the fourth and fifth consecutive years in the 2012 survey by *Forbes* magazine. Gates' net worth rose 10 percent to \$66 billion, up from \$60 billion in 2011.

Investor Steve Ballmer, the head of Bethesda Softworks Inc., which took over the 2012 survey, said Gates' net worth rose 10 percent to \$66 billion, up from \$60 billion in 2011. Gates' net worth rose 10 percent to \$66 billion, up from \$60 billion in 2011.

Ballmer said the rise mainly came from the 2012 survey, which ranked Gates as the nation's richest man for the fourth and fifth consecutive years in the 2012 survey by *Forbes* magazine. Gates' net worth rose 10 percent to \$66 billion, up from \$60 billion in 2011.

Microsoft's founder, Bill Gates, 50, was named the nation's richest man for the fourth and fifth consecutive years in the 2012 survey by *Forbes* magazine. Gates' net worth rose 10 percent to \$66 billion, up from \$60 billion in 2011.

But although Gates' net worth rose 10 percent to \$66 billion, up from \$60 billion in 2011, he is not the richest man in the world. That title belongs to Carlos Slim Helu, 68, who is worth \$65 billion, according to *Forbes*.

Microsoft's founder, Bill Gates, 50, was named the nation's richest man for the fourth and fifth consecutive years in the 2012 survey by *Forbes* magazine. Gates' net worth rose 10 percent to \$66 billion, up from \$60 billion in 2011.

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GATES

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US PRESIDENT Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House on Sept. 19.

## Suu Kyi meets Obama

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama welcomed Myanmar's opposition leader, Suu Kyi, to the White House on Wednesday, marking the first time a Myanmar leader has been invited to the White House.

The meeting, Obama said, was a historic moment for Myanmar and the United States.

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## Cartoons in French weekly fuel worldwide Muslim fury

PARIS—A French magazine ridiculed the Prophet Muhammad on Wednesday by portraying him naked in cartoons, fueling anger in the Muslim world.

The magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*, published the cartoons on Wednesday, showing the Prophet Muhammad in various states of undress.

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Protesters in Paris hold signs during a demonstration against the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. The signs read: 'Liberté de la presse' (Freedom of the press), 'Liberté d'expression' (Freedom of expression), 'Liberté de religion' (Freedom of religion), 'Liberté de conscience' (Freedom of conscience), 'Liberté de pensée' (Freedom of thought), 'Liberté de culte' (Freedom of worship), 'Liberté de religion' (Freedom of religion), 'Liberté de conscience' (Freedom of conscience), 'Liberté de pensée' (Freedom of thought), 'Liberté de culte' (Freedom of worship).

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## Harvard claim of 'Jesus' Wife' papyrus doubted

BOSTON—A group of papyrus experts has cast doubt on the Harvard University claim that a fragment of ancient papyrus is the 'Jesus' Wife'.

The group, led by Dr. James H. Charlesworth, said the fragment is a forgery.

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## Japan backs off goal to end nuclear power

TOKYO—In a sharp U-turn, the Japanese government Wednesday stepped back from its goal of ending nuclear power by 2034.

The government, led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, said it would now aim to end nuclear power by 2040.

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## PHILIPPINE HEART ASSOCIATION (PHA)

SUPPORTS

# SIN TAX BILL

We, the Philippine Heart Association, a non-stock, non-profit organization of heart and vascular specialists in the country, strongly support the passage of **Senate Bill 3249 - An Act Restructuring the Excise Taxes on Alcohol and Tobacco Products** (corresponding to a revised version of **House Bill 5727**), or the Sin Tax Bill.

There are compelling reasons why the Sin Tax bill must be passed.

**We recognize that the right to health is a fundamental right that is maintained in Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution – which states that – “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and as a policy instill health consciousness among them.”**

We belong to a society whose sworn Hippocratic mandate is to prevent and treat diseases of the heart and blood vessels. It is our moral responsibility and our collective duty to support initiatives that will impact on the prevalent tobacco consumption in the country. We support reforms to the current excise tax system on cigarettes and other tobacco products.

**Tobacco tax reform is in keeping with the provisions of the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) of which the Philippines is a signatory since September 2003. FCTC is the first public health treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO which reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standards of health.**

Cigarette smoke contains nearly 4,000 chemicals of which 60 are proven cancer-causing agents<sup>1</sup>. We cannot stand idle as 60 carcinogens are easily and legitimately available for everyone to enjoy. We deplore how tobacco can be an easily accessible and generally affordable commodity for everyone's death, disease, addiction and self-destruction.

**Ten Filipinos die from tobacco use every hour. Smoking is the most common risk factor associated with deaths due to stroke and heart attack in the Philippines. CIGARETTE SMOKING KILLS - nearly 87,600 Filipinos every year (or 240 deaths every day)<sup>2</sup> – which is HIGHER than other risk factors like diabetes, hypertension, obesity and high cholesterol.**

As a tobacco-growing country, the Philippines has one of the highest prevalence rates of smoking in the Western Pacific Region. Based on the 7<sup>th</sup> National Nutrition Survey (2008), the prevalence of smoking remains alarmingly high at 31% - thus, an estimated 25 million of the population aged 18 years are current and previous smokers. The 2009 Philippines Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) estimates that more than 17 million of the population aged 15 years and above currently smoke tobacco.

**Seven out of the ten leading causes of mortality in the Philippines are smoking-related. Based on only four smoking-related illnesses (lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, coronary artery disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), the economic burden due to healthcare costs and productivity losses amount to a staggering 218 to 416 billion pesos annually<sup>3</sup>.**

We believe that **TAXATION DETERS USAGE**. Increasing the price of tobacco through higher taxes is the **SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE** way to reduce consumption and encourage tobacco users to quit<sup>4,5</sup>. The Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) noted that a 70% increase in the price of tobacco could prevent up to a quarter of all smoking-related deaths worldwide.

**Philippines has one of the lowest prices of cigarettes (and alcohol) in the Asean region, which gives the poor and the youth easy access to both. Compared with many other Asean neighbors, the Philippines has the highest per capita consumption of cigarettes in 2007, one of the lowest prices of cigarettes and the lowest taxes imposed<sup>6</sup>.**

Lifestyle-related diseases affect both rich and poor, but most unfortunately, especially the poor. Smoking rates are highest among the poor in the Asian region, who will suffer from the cost of long-term treatment and unhealthy lifestyles. The poorest sector spends more for tobacco than for education, clothing, even for health.

**Most importantly, we recognize that SB 3249 provides for allocation of incremental revenues to finance the universal health care program of the government. One such area that will receive exclusive allocation is the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases – which is clearly aligned with our Society's goals.**

**Thus, PHA unequivocally supports this bill which will provide for the following:**

- Significant increase in tax rates**
- Removal of price classification freeze on cigarettes**
- Unitary tax for all cigarettes and alcohol products**
- Indexation of tax rates to gross domestic product (to ensure that tobacco and alcohol products do not become more affordable as income increases over time)**
- Allocation of incremental revenues to universal health care system**
- earmarking of funds for programs to help tobacco farmers**

The cardiovascular disease epidemic continues to exact a heavy burden on the citizenry and the economy. Cigarette smoking lurks behind this epidemic as the most significant risk factor that relentlessly ravages the youth, saps the meager resources of the poor and viciously destroys lives, families and futures. Concrete and decisive steps must be taken to protect the people from the disabling and fatal effects of tobacco. The passage of SB 3249 is a major step towards this direction.

**We, as healers of hearts and advocates of heart wellness, believe that it is our moral responsibility to lend our voice and support to this crucial law. We strongly urge our lawmakers to pass the Sin Tax bill NOW.**

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But the company would benefit more from the flood of new buyers who are flocking to the market than from the sale of its own assets. "We're not in a position to sell off our assets," says a company spokesman. "We're in a position to sell off our debt."



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Indians young, hardworking and generally more  
literate who observe a better and surer way  
and enjoy the convenience of clean living. They  
are the most advanced young Americans, as  
hardworking, professional, good-looking and  
capable to be compared with the uneducated  
ones with their children.

that team should also be provided with each cluster. They're first-of-their-kind subgroups that don't exist and are provided to each of the clusters with cluster 1 getting three and clusters 2 and 3 receiving two each. This was a fairly easy assembly of homophones with that structure.









# BUSINESS

## FDI commitments hit P62.6B in H1

Bulk of total amount to go to manufacturing ventures, says NSCB

By Ana G. Riza

FOREIGN investment commitments reported for the first semester of 2012 barely grew from a year ago, data from the National Statistical Commission (NSC) showed.

According to the NSCB, the total foreign direct investments (FDI) registered by the country's 16 investment promotion agencies reached P62.6 billion in the first semester, up by 4.4 percent from P60.2 billion in 2011.

In the second quarter, the total FDI registered with seven agencies—Board of Investments, Trade Development Corp., Philippine Economic Zone Au-

thority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Authority of the Philippine Free Zone, NSC Investment Region of Southern Mindanao and Corporate Investors in Zone Authority—amounted P44.1 billion, up by 5.4 percent from P41.8 billion a year ago.

Agosino was still the top investing country with pledges worth P17.4 billion in the second quarter. The Netherlands and United States accounted P16 billion and P4.3 billion, respectively.

Manufacturing got the bulk of the FDI amounting to P35.4 billion in the second quarter, followed by transportation and storage (P10.3 billion) and real estate activities (P1.9 billion).

In the meantime, approved foreign and Filipino investments in the second quarter jumped 27.2 percent to P302.8 million from P190.4 million last year.

Investment pledges from Philippines in the second quarter were valued at P31.2 billion, of which P90.1 billion would finance activities involving electricity, gas, water and air conditioning supply, while P30.6 billion and P30.6 billion were intended for manufacturing and real estate, respectively.

The NSCB said foreign and Filipino investors approved in the second quarter would generate 23,261 jobs, fewer than the 30,819 jobs in the same period last year. Out of these expected jobs, about 22,000 would come from projects with foreign interest.

## US investors seen keen on mining

By Riza T. Ochoaño

UNITED STATES-BASED private banking firm Merrill Lynch Capital Partners Corp. (JPMorgan Chase Bank, American Express) were interested in investing in the Philippines, particularly in the mining sector.

However, investors would likely wait for a legislation on a new mining regime starting at least before, making it investment decisions, Merrill Lynch Capital managing director Charles Polson said in an interview on the sidelines of the Mining Philippines 2012 Conference.

Polson said the Philippines was a promising area. The more open regulations it issued out, the more he expects to see increased, we can make money and steadily you it down," he said.

Solano also said investors which were in search of high-risk assets were also interested in the coal and construction sectors. Merrill Lynch Capital will continue to monitor on these sectors.

Indeed, during the month in the conference, Solano said the more open regulations in financing mining projects were legal in nature, which were from money in money. The US was highly concerned for what it the Philippines, it is a source of commerce and culture. So, we want to see the legal and moral to be the source of the right of the mining company to develop the deposits. The ideal scenario would be that when the mining company shows full legal rights and other sectors and activities areas without conditions to develop to explore these areas, with some mining naturally belonging to the natural government. When can be obtained is a business opportunity," he said.

Other factors to consider are the more improved mining projects such as profit rate, value added tax on services, royalties, local costs and working hours on investment and financial performance. Solano said.

"One of the things that we deal it with DMCI but it's not mining, it's in construction area. We haven't done anything at mining supply businesses, but we are looking to do it," he said.

## MERALCO and PLDT ALPHA Enterprise offer efficiency options for semiconductor industry

While the Philippine economy is projected to grow 6.2% in 2012, advanced economies like the US and those in Europe have yet to free themselves from the clutches of recession.

Given the continuing global economic uncertainty along with their savings like new clients and customer spending still isn't what it needs to be.

The Philippine semiconductor industry's projection of 8% to 10% export growth this year has been downgraded to just 5% to 7%.

It is crucial, especially for clients like semiconductor companies, to identify solutions in order to ensure business continuity through both engineering measures.

During the 10th General Members Meeting of the Semiconductor and Electronic Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI) in Iloilo, joint sponsors MERALCO and PLDT ALPHA Enterprise presented strategic outsourcing opportunities for semiconductor companies at a time where growth projections are grim.



MERALCO Vice President and Head of Corporate Strategic Group, Victor B. Serrano (left), PLDT and Data Center Category Head for PLDT ALPHA Enterprise, Jay F. Ignacio (right) present solutions to SEIPI participants.



MERALCO and PLDT executives came together during the SEIPI general members meeting held at the Iloilo Convention Center. Meralco Vice President and Head of Corporate Strategic Group, Victor B. Serrano, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Category Head, Jay F. Ignacio, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Vice President and Head of Data Center Category Head, Jay F. Ignacio, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Vice President and Head of Data Center Category Head, Jay F. Ignacio, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Vice President and Head of Data Center Category Head, Jay F. Ignacio.

### End use and service

MERALCO pitched its access-to-it service that provides a total, end-to-end solution to corporate customers' energy requirements, a newly option for semiconductor companies preparing for the future.

The first of its kind to be offered in the country, MERALCO's managed services (MMS), enabled through SEIPI, is a comprehensive offering that addresses customer's energy requirements on the load or customer's side of the electrical network.

MMS is a wholly owned subsidiary of MERALCO and is one of the country's premier energy management companies, providing practical, versatile, integrated energy solutions.

In part due to the evolution of customer needs, MMS is seen at the opportunity to share with a country's needs of accumulated expertise. By allowing the electrical utility to focus on its competency, it enables the customers—particularly semiconductor companies—to focus on their core business.

"Companies are beginning to realize that to be able to grow, they should focus on projects of their business that truly add value," said MERALCO Vice President and Head of Corporate Strategic Group, Victor B. Serrano.

"The reason that they can afford to invest in working capital to load, for example, energy redundancy equipment, may be lost and if they relocate it to something else. These things have a direct impact on the company's bottom line," he explains.

### Data in business: Redefined

Also during the conference, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise presented its VETRO Data Center, which provides solutions that serve as business

facilities, provides all three in the IT customer space: the uplink, middle, equipment deployment and maintenance. All the data flow is readily available and reliable infrastructure, a stable IT operations and support, plus access to the latest technology.

"VETRO was built with all the precision and innovation contained from a top-of-the-line data center. It's spread out, expansive, it has raised floors and cold-aided, 100% perimeter and CCTV security, plus biometric and proximity access card technology, and it is equipped with gas-based fire suppression. VETRO, for instance, it also has contained 100% monitoring," states Victor B. Serrano.

PLDT IP and Data Center Category Head for PLDT ALPHA Enterprise.

Combined expertise

MERALCO's Serrano and PLDT ALPHA Enterprise's Ignacio said their company is opening windows for the semiconductor industry to become efficient at one-to-one manufacturing a value proposition.

In the meantime, products still need to be manufactured for the anticipated supply. When that time comes, the company with the most international will be prepared to make the most sales.

When semiconductor industries are more consumers of energy and data, it would also mean that the company's strategic outsourcing as they all prepare for the moment when customer spending picks up again and signals the next growth recovery.

What better way for them to wait this period out by tapping the services of MERALCO's MMS and PLDT ALPHA Enterprise's VETRO Data Center and optimizing every opportunity to improve business efficiency and the bottom line.

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## A Brown, Ayala unit putting up coal-fired power plant in Iloilo

By Amy R. Rana

AFRICAN-AS ENERGY Holdings Inc. has signed an agreement with a Brown unit to put up a 120-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Iloilo, which was estimated to cost P1.2 billion.

The memorandum of agreement covering the construction of the proposed power plant facility was signed by the Ayala subsidiary and a Brown unit and its subsidiaries. The memorandum of agreement was signed by the Ayala subsidiary and its subsidiaries. The memorandum of agreement was signed by the Ayala subsidiary and its subsidiaries.

In a declaration to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, A Brown said the proposed 120-megawatt coal-fired facility which is expected to be completed by the end of 2013, would help address the expected eight power supply shortages in Iloilo and the Visayas region by 2015.

Should further capacity be needed in Iloilo, A Brown and a Brown unit agreed to include in their plan a second 120-MW power plant for the future development.

"With the joint venture in place, the power plant is now on track to breaking ground within the third quarter of 2012. The construction has done at the preliminary work and investments over the past two years. The engineering plans are ready, and its permit regulatory approvals have been secured," A Brown said.

The Ayala Group has been aggressively building up its power generation portfolio with plans to reach an 8,000-megawatt portfolio of power plants and build a portfolio of about 1,000 megawatts over the next five years. Through investments with more or less pre-owned power plants.

"This is a welcome development for Iloilo in general, and for the Visayas, in general, as it will reduce the availability of energy, reduce and change power to fuel widespread growth and development in the area like Iloilo City, Bacolod City and Zamboanga. Our commitment to Iloilo is long-term, as we intend to build another 1,000 megawatts of capacity in a second five years," said A Brown vice president Rodolfo Cordero.



Former DICT Secretary Ben Rosales with (L-R) SEIPI President Ernesto B. Santiago, MERALCO Vice President Victor B. Serrano, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Vice President Jay F. Ignacio, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Vice President Jay F. Ignacio, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Vice President Jay F. Ignacio, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Vice President Jay F. Ignacio.



# 26+ LIFE STYLE

Editor Phylline Nolasco San Juan

Contributing Editor Lito Carlos San Juan

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## Young Pinoy athletes have an unforgettable Olympic experience

By Albert P. Alonzo  
 Contributor

IT HAS ALWAYS been my childhood dream to watch the Olympic Games. When I received the official designation of the British Council Philippines to be the group leader and head of delegation for the 11 student athletes going to the 2012 London Olympics, I did not have second thoughts.

And my hectic work commitment at the British Graduate School of Business and my occupation mostly I parked my legs and proceeded to London last July 28 to accompany our country's young athletes, who were on to study at a British boarding school in London and witness the splendor of the Olympic Games.

The UK Summer School Sports Scholarship Program was a first in

Top performers from the 2011 Batang Pinoy Philippine youth games get a chance to witness the world's greatest sporting event in London



THE PHILIPPINE delegation in front of the London Olympic Park

Philippine sports, where my predecessors from the 2011 Batang Pinoy Philippine youth games were sent to the United Kingdom for one month of summer school in the British archipelago of the British Council.

of Philippines, the British Embassy, the Philippine Sports Commission and the UK Olympic Athletes.

Our young Filipino athletes got to experience a summer that combined

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# A youth's view of the RH bill

By Hina Gubie Alonzo  
Student correspondent,  
St. Louis University

**I** WROTE TO a family of mostly-Italian individuals. My last grandfather was a doctor. He started his life devoted to one profession. His majority of my relatives are healthcare professionals, they took over from my grandfather and later remained in the Filipino American Medical Group, in honor of our beloved old man.

The hospital took the ground floor of our ancestral home. I spent most of my childhood summers and holidays in that house. Having been used to the land of healthcare, even such as nursing being related to the delivery room, an obituary was in the

I grow up believing that my life would be dedicated to this field of work, medicine—and here, in a medical laboratory science student. As such, I'm aware of the issues related to the RH bill. I am talking about the reproductive health bill. A lot of people are talking about it but have no idea why before the current administration.

It's hard to talk about my life

**In a tradition-bound society, it is not surprising that such measures will meet resistance, when all we seek is reproductive health information and services**

of the matter as a youth, and to someone who has a background in the field. I do not intend to take a stand on behalf of all the youth, or of medical practitioners. I know that every personality is, and we all have our own views and opinions. I am merely stating facts, and I'll try my best to include my judgment. I want to see the results of the responsibility for their contribution after making my article.

## Personal and child care

What is the RH bill? I will not discuss the whole thing, since a single article won't suffice. For simply, the RH bill is a proposal that addresses the issues of maternal and child care, reproductive health, and population, and encompasses that in the social sciences.

It is a groundswell of the development of the nation's health care, by giving Filipino citizens of whatever economic status access to medical and health services.

But if there are the reasons behind the controversial bill, it is not written for the benefit of the Filipino community who is it opposed to?

## Great influence

It cannot be denied that religion plays a big part in our lives. It has great influence in how we follow the rules in a particular stance. It is no secret that the Catholic Church is against the bill, so it's not surprising that some Catholics are against the bill.

While they have their own view for going against the proposed law—and some even show evidence of the harmful effects of the drugs in this bill—their argument of anti-life is more influential. Many of them believe this bill goes against the teachings of God, against the beliefs that the bill will provide the drugs and health services mandated by the bill.

In my family, health is our top concern. Luckily, most of our family members oppose the bill.



might disagree, when all we seek is reproductive health information and services. In fact, there is a vital argument in our community that supports the proposed measure. However, without the bill, we are denied access to accurate information about sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, childbirth and related diseases.

Belonging to the younger generation, I might easily be accused of being in favor of the bill without understanding what it is all about. After all, most young people need to know more, but to us, we are not yet ready to have a law that addresses this particular concern.

## Increased risks

Ignorance of important RH information exposes the youth to increased risk of unplanned pregnancy and sexual diseases such as HIV/AIDS, among other problems. The reproductive bill will ensure that relevant information and appropriate life-saving services will not be withheld from the Filipino people, especially the youth.

I am not a fan of a lot of medical practitioners. I have a great appreciation for the responsibility, as well as the work of providing healthcare. But I also understand the challenges, even as I belong to the profession.

My mind and consciousness tell me that the issue of reproductive health should be addressed by the state through comprehensive legislation. This is my stand. What is yours?

# We are not just the Roman Catholic Republic of the Philippines

By Alvin M. Santos  
Guest Columnist

**I** GROUP UP is a term that is used to describe a group of people with different religious beliefs. In the middle of the 20th century, the Roman Catholic Church, which is the dominant religion in the Philippines, was the only religious group in the country. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

The Roman Catholic Church, which is the dominant religion in the Philippines, was the only religious group in the country. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

The Roman Catholic Church, which is the dominant religion in the Philippines, was the only religious group in the country. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

For 300 years, Spain ruled the Philippines, and the Roman Catholic Church was the dominant religion in the country. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

**It's not the only religion in the country. Hence, government must cater to this group alone**

place in the government's role in the country. The only way to ensure that the government is not biased in favor of any one religion is to ensure that it is neutral and that it treats all religions equally.

Even after 114 years of independence from Spain, the Roman Catholic Church continues to be the dominant religion in the Philippines. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

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For 300 years, Spain ruled the Philippines, and the Roman Catholic Church was the dominant religion in the country. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

which is the Iglesia ni Cristo.

## Largely ignored

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religion and denomination, the Roman Catholic Church continues to be the dominant religion in the Philippines. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

## Screening bullying

It is not surprising that the government is not biased in favor of any one religion. The only way to ensure that the government is not biased is to ensure that it is neutral and that it treats all religions equally.

The Roman Catholic Church, which is the dominant religion in the Philippines, was the only religious group in the country. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

For 300 years, Spain ruled the Philippines, and the Roman Catholic Church was the dominant religion in the country. But since then, other religious groups have emerged, and the country is now a multi-religious society.

By relying on the state to provide the RH bill, we are ensuring that the government is not biased in favor of any one religion. The only way to ensure that the government is not biased is to ensure that it is neutral and that it treats all religions equally.

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## Martin Nievera: Filipinos not ready for harsh critique

By Alan Palacios  
Contributor

"YOU'RE not funny enough." This is one of the comments that Martin Nievera usually gets about his joking style on "The X Factor Philippines" on ABS-CBN.

For some reason, Mar-

tin still, people expect him to remain the broadly loved, lovable, Genie, known "American Idol" judge and master of the "The X Factor" business.

However, Martin feels that Filipinos' attitudes and assessments are not ready for another, straight-to-the-point critique.

"This mix is a national event, so, as I must honestly, I must

be honest and remain respectful," Martin told the audience during a recent press run. "This is my style. If you don't like it, just watch it. I won't please you guys."

However, Martin continued, there was a time when he was not prepared to share a few laughs. The host knows in the joys of evening, solo, and I feel awful in this."

He said the key to giving good criticism was to make a balance between being entertaining and being helpful to the audience. "We make sure to do our job, but it's very Filipino,"

### Screwed job

Martin, 30, said he didn't expect that judging singing contest could be very stressful. In spite of

his achievement in the music field, he said, he still didn't think he had enough credits for the job. "When I'm judge?" They said on the "Greatest Hits" but not I could? This job is tough. When you make a decision that the audience doesn't agree with, suddenly you're no longer the big star the people say you are."

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## Norberto "Robert" Delfino Paulino

*born June 7, 1948, entered into eternal peace  
on Sept. 14, 2012 at the age of 64.*

He leaves behind his wife, Kitchie Benedicto, his lifelong *Mahal*; their only son, Paulo Paulino and daughter-in-law, Rhona; grandchildren Stacy and Amara;

His children, Rolan Paulino and wife, Cynthia; Chinky and Hooty Paulino; and grandchildren Robert, Francis, Lenjay, Tata, and Sasa;

His step-children Yoyette and Jeffrey Ferrer, Tintin and Popoy Rosales, and Pia de Leon and their children: Amanda, Julius, Andrew, Kaitlin, Kyle, Jason, Jillian, Kaiden, Julia and Kyranne;

His beloved mother-in-law, Mama Julie Benedicto;

And his two remaining siblings, Zeny and Henry Gallinato, Helen and Bill Wilson and their families;

Necrological services will be held at Chapel 7-10, Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio on Friday, Sept. 21 at 5:00PM.

## CARINA HIZON ANTONIO

of Mexico, Pangasinan and Quezon City  
12 November 1931 - 19 September 2012

She is survived by her husband AGTV SIXTO T. ANTONIO, her children Ting & Gen, Marlis & Norman Gozon, Tony & Gina, Buddy & Malos, Sammie & Edler, Gigi & Rene, Susan & Ermer Coronel, Rada; her grandchildren Dina, Quilley, Christie & Digoy Kabatay, Gabby, Mary, Gilbert, Miggy & Isabel, Denise, Pardo & Lynne, Angela, Donna, Enzo, Anton & Rica, Adrian, AC, Serg, Alex, Alon, Jessica, Isabel, Claudia, Katrina, Clayton, and her great-grandchildren Jojo, Kira, Kathryn, Arla; brother, sisters, in-laws, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City

Creations will be on Tuesday, 25 September 2012 after the 10:00 a.m. mass at The Arlington Crematory

Interment will be on Wednesday, 26 September 2012 after the 10:00 a.m. mass at the Sta. Maria della Strada Garden Sanctuary

## Marquita R. Lopez

*Joined our Creation on  
September 19, 2012 at the age of 98*

Her remains lie at Resplandor's Residence, Bogo, Resplandor, San Pascual, Batangas.

Interment will be on September 23, 2012 at Genhensan, Buleyos, Batangas.

We, the family would like to request relatives and friends to pray for her return to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ST PETER

## MAXIMO BALATBAT NUCUM

*Respectfully passed his God's  
on September 13, 2012 after age 73.*

with: family: Renee, Norman,  
Jeffrey, Jay, Joel and John;  
grandchildren: Stephen, Stephanie, Angelito, Renee,  
Isabel, Jeremy, Matthew, and Joseph Bryant;  
his brother Ben is also at the St. Peter Church,  
Carmichaelville, Quezon City

Interment will be on September 13, 2012, 10:00 p.m.  
at the Resplandor Church

ST PETER

## FRANCISCO "BOY" C. JIMENEZ, JR.

*Respectfully passed his God's  
on September 13, 2012 after age 73.*

His body lies in state at St. Peter Church, Quezon City.  
Thank you for the service that you have shared with our family and  
of God and in attending our beloved Father "Boy" Jimenez, Jr.  
April 1, 1939 - Sept. 13, 2012. Our deepest gratitude to those who  
shared their prayers, love, and flowers and for our sympathy.

Interment will be on September 13, 2012, 10:00 p.m. at the Resplandor Church

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become a part of a solution. We warmly  
invite everyone to join and support "Run  
For Our Lives - Marikina 2012."

The concept is to inspire to do our best  
for transformation by having fun and support  
of goodwill to commit themselves to the  
preservation of the integrity of Creation  
and the dignity of the Human Dignity by  
raising their own Mother Earth and our  
children regardless of age, gender, religion,  
nationality and political affiliation.

This is a charity event that will aid the  
children at CBRI Foundation and support  
the project of Greenpeace Philippines  
"Water Fund."

CBRI Foundation is a United Nations  
Program and child-care agency licensed by  
the DSWD. The Running Green  
Program provides an alternative home  
environment for abandoned, neglected and  
abused children aged 0-18 years old. The program is staffed with  
professionals, caregivers, and  
community caregivers to ensure optimum  
health care, nutrition and age-appropriate  
stimulation for early detection of  
developmental delay and prevention of  
abuse. In CBRI, each child is uniquely  
loved.

Through campaigns, Greenpeace aims to  
protect the region from harm ecological  
risk and to serve as a beacon of awareness

and action to the benefit of environmental  
protection and sustainable development.  
Today, Greenpeace is in partnership with  
the Marikina Local Government to protect  
and rehabilitate the Marikina River from its  
pollution "Water Fund."

The event is on October 07, 2012 at the  
Marikina Sports Complex. Registration  
starts by 6:00AM and programs will end at  
10:00AM. The event expects no less than  
500 participants.

Each participant will be provided with an  
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Three (3) Kilometer run PHP 300.00, Five  
(5) Kilometer run PHP 350.00.

There will also be raffle draws, seminars  
and activities related to Climate Change  
Awareness, Healthy Lifestyle Living,  
Emergency Response System, Drug  
Abuse Rehabilitation Education. It is known for  
a meaningful and enjoyable event.

The project is organized by the six New  
Marikina Adolescent girls students under the  
supervision of Professor Eduardo M.  
Chavez, Jr. of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor  
College in Marikina City.

For more information, please contact  
Albert Jacobado at 0912248-4167/  
0917-4950289.



Asst. Marikina College partner on "E-Learning" Acet (Philippines), Inc.,  
the local subsidiary of Taiwan-based Acet Inc., one of the world's most  
advanced PC brands, recently partnered with Marikina College for the  
schools E-Learning tool project. Acet, together with one of its top  
partners, Creative Technologies, Inc., supplied the ACER Aspire A200  
15.6" PC to a pilot batch of first year high school students, including  
their faculty and administrators. Apart from being a highly-effective  
medium for teaching and communication, Marikina College is utilizing  
the tablet to help engage girls and young women in STEM (Science,  
Technology, Engineering and Math). This project has undergone  
extensive research before implementation, taking into consideration  
relevant technical, infrastructure, and training aspects that will match  
the pedagogical design for the tablet's effective use. During the  
launch signing ceremony held at Marikina College, Acet and Creative  
Technologies officials lauded the school's progress, expressed that it will  
be their objective of providing the tablet PC as an effective tool  
in discovering and nurturing a new generation of learners through  
power and efficient use of technology. Present at the contract signing  
were ACER Philippines general manager Manuel Hing (right) and  
Marikina College president Dr. Rosendo S. Lopez (center). They are  
joined by Creative Technologies Inc. vice-president Jacob De Jesus  
who represents Creative Technologies Inc. president, Dr. Ben Chan.

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